

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, characterized in that between the screen and the filter the consistency of the pulp is raised by said pre-thickener by 1 – 4 %.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, characterized in that said regulation is controlled by maintaining a constant pressure difference over the filter surface.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for treating pulp, which apparatus comprises an essentially elongated outer casing, the first end of which is closed with an end plate; at the first end of which casing there is arranged an inlet conduit for the fiber suspension to be treated P_{in} ; the other end of which casing is closed with an end plate; at said other end of which casing there is arranged a discharge conduit for the thickened fiber suspension P_{out} being discharged from the apparatus; which casing is provided with a discharge conduit for the filtrate F_{out} ; inside which casing essentially at least between the inlet conduit and the discharge conduit there is arranged a filter surface having a preferably round cross section and arranged inside it a cleaning member comprising a rotating shaft, on which shaft at least one screw thread is fixed for keeping the filter surface clean, characterized in that the discharge conduits for the thickened pulp and the filtrate are provided with valves for controlling the operation of the pre-thickener.

21. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that said valves are controlled according to the input power of the shaft, on the basis of an impulse from a previous process stage or pressure difference prevailing over the filter surface.

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22. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the screw thread is fixed on the shaft by means of tie rods which leave a free space between the shaft and the screw thread.

23. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that the clearance of the screw thread from the filter surface is less than 5 mm.

24. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that the clearance of the screw thread from the filter surface is less than 3 mm and suitably 0.2 – 2 mm.

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25. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that the screening surface is provided with essentially axial grooves or corresponding guides which prevent the fiber mat from rotating inside the filter surface.